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To the ladies and gentlemen of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Levi Krutzfeldt, and I'm a 3.6 GPA student currently in my 3<sup>rd</sup> year of attendance at Montana State University in Bozeman.

I support this bill because it makes it legal for law-abiding people who already have concealed carry permits to exercise their privilege. I myself am an example of one of these citizens, and I have paid the fees and completed the training necessary to legally carry concealed in this state. Even after all of this, I cannot legally defend myself with the tool I have been licensed for at the place that I spend the majority of my time.

However, a big problem is not just being able to defend oneself on campus, but also in the surrounding area. Many students live off-campus and have to drive, walk, or bike to and from campus 5 days out of the week. As a personal example I live a mile away from MSU and have to walk or bike that distance every day. Since it's against MSU's policy to even have a handgun in a vehicle on campus property, let alone carry one, the traveler's method of self-defense must be left at home. Universities have implemented emergency phones and campus escorts to "ensure" student safety, but what good are those once a student leaves campus boundaries? Logically an assailant would wait for an unsuspecting victim to leave the alleged security of campus before attacking. This was proved last year as a woman was raped not just within 4 blocks of campus, but also within 4 blocks of my girlfriend's home.

What I wish to make very clear to you is that what this bill does not do is make it ok for university students to walk to class with a gun thrown over a shoulder. The universities would be able to implement appropriate actions for any firearm not contained within a case or holster, meaning that no unrest would be created from the open display of a gun. Students who do not carry would be unaffected by the law because they wouldn't know the difference between those carrying and those who are not.

I won't spend time explaining how the current university policies violate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. However, I will give you some examples that show concealed carry on campus is safe, because in fact it has already been done:

The first example is the State of Utah. They have had a law since 2006 that allows students to legally carry concealed on all of the 10 public universities and colleges it has to offer, including Weber State, Utah State, and the University of Utah. Distributed throughout these 10 colleges are 30 campuses. According to the Utah System of Higher Education's website, this totals to approximately 184,000 students enrolled this fall. (2)

The next example of legal campus conceal carry is Colorado State University. They had approximately 30,000 students enrolled this fall, and they've been legally carrying concealed firearms since 2003. (6)

Finally, Blue Ridge Community College in Weyers Cave, VA, has had concealed carry on campus since 1995. Their enrollment approached 5000 students in fall 2010. (5)

After allowing concealed carry on campus for a combined total of one hundred semesters, none of these twelve schools has seen a single resulting incident of gun violence (including threats and suicides), a single gun accident, or a single gun theft.(1) This data enforces the fact that people who have obtained concealed carry permits commit the least crime and are one of the most responsible groups of citizens.

Along with the above named examples, state courts have ruled very recently (2011 and 2012, respectively) in Oregon and Colorado that their universities do not have the authority to ban concealed firearms on campuses. This adds 21 more universities to the total list of colleges that have been listed above. (3, 4)

Members of the committee, I ask that you carefully consider the information I have presented to you when the time comes to vote on this bill. Thank you.

#### Works Cited

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4. "Oregon Court of Appeals Rejects University System's Ban on Guns on Campus." *The Oregonian*. N.p.,n.d. Web. 29 Jan. 2013.
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